

Smith-Rosenkrans House
.3 mi. NW of Old Mine Road
Flatbrookville Vicinity
Walpack Township
Sussex County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-812

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NJ
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1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS NO. NJ-812

SMITH-ROSENKRANS HOUSE

Location: .3 mile northwest of Old Mine Road, approximately 1 mile west of Flatbrookville, Walpack Township, Sussex County, New Jersey.

USGS Flatbrookville Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.501520.4549890

Present Owner/ Mrs. Agnes Rosenkrans
Occupant:

Present Use: Residence

Significance: This house was erected in 1807-1808 by Jonas Smith, an ancestor of the present occupant. Except for numerous additions, this house remains a virtually undisturbed example of early nineteenth-century architecture.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Dates of erection: 1807-1808. Mrs Rosenkrans, the present owner, gave the date as 1808. Amelia Stickney Decker (That Ancient Trail, p. 93) refers to the date 1807 appearing on a rafter in the older part of the house. Inspection by these researchers failed to reveal the date. Mrs. Rosenkrans did not know where it was to be found, although she thought her husband had known.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title, with reference to the Sussex County Records Building, Newton, New Jersey.

1797 Deed 18 Apr. 1797
Deed Book K p. 84

Recorded 3 Nov. 1803

Manuel Hover and Mary (wife) of Delaware Twp., Northhampton County, Pa., to Jonas Smith and Mary (wife) of Walpack, Sussex County, New Jersey. For 1400 pounds Pennsylvania money. Land in Walpack Township. A 150 acre tract, excepting $\frac{1}{2}$ acre within boundaries, which is the common burying ground of Walpack. Also 25 acres in the 300 acre tract of undivided lands of Walpack.

1827 Deed 30 June 1827 Recorded 19 Jan. 1828
Deed Book E-3 p. 409
Jonas Smith of Walpack to Philip Smith of Walpack.
For \$1000. Land in Walpack Township. A tract of 55 acres
and 45 perches, along the Delaware River. Also 11 acres
and 100 perches. "...it being the remaining part of lands
of said Jonas Smith in the township and also where he now
lives..."

1848 23 Nov. 1848
Inventories Vol. H, p. 97
Jacob Smith is administrator for Philip I. (or J.) Smith
(Index of Proceedings, R-S: No will is mentioned for
Philip J. Smith) Total inventory, \$10,319. Of this, \$3610
was in notes held, \$3918 in bonds held.

Benjamin Rosenkrans married Mary A. Smith and bought from most of
her brothers and sisters their portions of their father's farm:

1854 Deed 11 Apr. 1854 Recorded 3 Apr. 1855
Deed Book Q-4, p. 610
Jeremiah Smith of Walpack to Benjamin Rosenkrans of Walpack
For \$1300. Land in Walpack. "...part of the lands where
Philip J. Smith, deceased, died seized, and the tract
hereby conveyed was assigned to the party of the first part
is a partition of said lands among the children and heirs
at law of said Philip J. Smith made by Peter Dewitt, James
H. Struble and Horatio N. Gustin, commissioners appointed
by the Prerogative Court of said State of New Jersey" and
described as Lot No. 7 in their report. It is part of the
homestead farm called "The Hook." 61.43 acres.

1862 Deed 29 Dec. 1862 Recorded 29 Dec. 1862
Deed Book D-5 p. 141
Vandalia Smith of Newton to Benjamin Rosenkrans for
\$1600. Two tracts. Division of the land of Philip J.
Smith made by the Commissioners of the Ordinary of New
Jersey. Lot 4, 54.15 acres, with deductions of: 2.5 acres
for a church lot and graveyard, 0.15 acres for a school
house, and 1.50 acres for a lane. Also, Wood Lot No. 4,
30.79 acres.

1863 Deed 3 Nov. 1863 Recorded 7 Mar. 1864
Deed Book G-5 p. 95
Elijah Rosenkrans and Mary (wife) to Benjamin Rosenkrans
For \$300. Part of real estate of late Philip J. Smith set
off to Jeremiah Smith in the division of the real estate by
Commissioners. Called Wood Lot No. 5. 39.68 acres. Was
conveyed by Jeremiah Smith to Elijah Rosenkrans. 11 Apr.
1854 P4 p. 391.

- 1863 Deed 5 Nov. 1863 Recorded 6 Nov. 1863
Deed Book E-5 p. 477
Madison Smith of Pedlem Twp., Sonora Co., Calif. to
Benjamin Rosenkrans of Walpack
For \$2400. In Walpack Twp. Beginning at the beginning
corner of Lot No. 1 of the division made by the
commissioners appointed to divide the estate of Philip J.
Smith, decd...containing 17.31 acres. Also, a wood lot on
the mountain. 50.19 acres.
- 1865 Deed 14 Apr. 1865 Recorded 24 May 1865
Deed Book K-5 p. 170
Molenna Jane Smith of Walpack to Benjamin Rosenkrans of
Walpack
For \$1600. In Walpack Twp., a tract of 38.01 acres. Also,
Wood Lot No. 3, 30.70 acres. Being a part of land
belonging to Philip J. Smith and set off by H. N. Gusten,
Jas. H. Struble and Peter Dewitt as Commissioners.
- 1869 Deed 15 July 1869 Recorded 15 July 1869
Deed Book Y-5 p. 100
Sylvia Augusta Smith of Walpack to Benjamin Rosenkrans of
Walpack
For \$1600. 22 acres. Also Wood Lot No. 1, 38.51 aces.
Description taken from order made by Hon. O. S. Halsted,
Ordinary of the State of New Jersey, 18 Sept. 1849, in
determining shares of the children of Philip J. Smith,
decd., in his real estate. Is "Lots No. 1" in said
division.
- 1874 2 Dec. 1874 Rec. 27 Dec. 1874
Letters of Administration Book C p. 160
Mary A. Rosenkrans and Philip S. Rosenkrans were
administrators for Benjamin Rosenkrans, decd.
- 1874 3 Dec. 1874
Inventory Book M p. 389
Mary A. Rosenkrans is widow of Benjamin, decd. Total
valuation of inventory, \$12,429.60. Largest item was a
note of Jacob Rosenkrans, \$1550 principal and \$2289
interest, total \$3839.

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- 1912 13 Feb. 1912 Recorded 11 June 1912
Deed Book Z-10 p. 329
Eugene Rosenkrans (of Walpack Twp.) and Philip S. Rosenkrans (Lehman Twp., Pike Co., Pa.) and James McIntosh for \$20. Agreement to purchase the land; conveyance upon receipt of \$14,000 within 6 months. 350 acres.
- 1912 13 Sept. 1912 Recorded 1 Oct. 1912
Mortgage Book S-4, p. 241
James Mackintosh (mortgagor) of Stroudsburg, Pa. to Eugene Rosenkrans, Walpack Twp., and Philip S. Rosenkrans, Lehman Twp., Pike Co., Pa. (mortgagees)
For \$5000 350 acres. Insurance of \$4000 on buildings was required. Mortgage given to secure part of the purchase money for the premises.
- 1918 12 Jan. 1918 Eugene Rosenkrans died. Mary (widow) and Philip S. administrators.
- 1924 20 Oct. 1924 Recorded 19 Dec. 1924
Deed Book S-12 p. 212
Ackerson, V.B. Mackerley, Sheriff (for James Macintosh and Matilda E., his wife, Orin R. Judd and Bertha, his wife, Jeremiah Rosenkrans and Bushkill Electric Co.) to Philip S. Rosenkrans
For \$1000, at sheriff's sale. 350 acres in Walpack Twp.
- 1929 4 Feb. 1929 Recorded 11 Feb. 1929
Deed Book 308 p. 293
Bertha M. Dickinson and Fred, her husband, of Unionville, N.Y., Marion E. Morris and Stephen, her husband, of Johnsons, N.Y. to Jeremiah H. Rosenkrans
For \$1.00. 350 acres in Walpack Twp., being all of the land of parties of the first part in Walpack Twp. Lands are those of the late Philip S. Rosenkrans, who died intestate, and which descended to Bertha M. Dickinson, Marion E. Morris and Jeremiah H. Rosenkrans as his next of kin and heirs at law.
- 1939 15 Nov. 1939 Recorded 15 Nov. 1939
Deed Book 372, p. 525
Sadie A. Linden, Newton, N.J. To Jeremiah H. Rosenkrans and Agnes, his wife, of Walpack Twp.
- 1939 15 Nov. 1939 Recorded 15 Nov. 1939
Jeremiah H. Rosenkrans and Agnes Rosenkrans, his wife to Sadie A. Linden
These two deeds of the same date are for purposes of transferring title to include the wife, Agnes Rosenkrans.

1951 13 May 1948

Recorded 24 Apr. 1951

Will Book 33 p. 574

Jeremiah H. Rosenkrans, dec. Estate to wife Agnes
Rosenkrans and son Benjamin E. Rosenkrans, sharing equally.

4. Original plan and construction: The original house, as built for Jonas Smith in 1807-08, probably consisted of three rooms on each floor, a typical German plan found in Pennsylvania. The present entrance hall and bathroom would have comprised the kitchen. Entrance would have been from what is now the rear of the house. The stairway to the second floor would have been in the north corner of the kitchen directly under the present stairway from the second floor to the attic, and similarly boxed in. The living room with its corner fireplace and the chamber directly behind it completed the first floor. The second-floor plan would have been similar.
5. Alterations and additions: The northeast addition was made in the early 1850s, according to the present owner or ca. 1860, according to Norman M. Souder. The summer kitchen of this addition was later enclosed to become the kitchen. The present main stairway was added after the original kitchen fireplace was closed off, making that room into a hall. Later, a bathroom was installed in the northwestern end of the hall. The front porch was originally small and the rear porch was about half its present length.

B. Historical Events and Person Connected with the Structure:

According to Amelia Stickney Decker and Lenard E. Brown (see Sources of Information), the Rosenkranses operated the Decker Ferry from this farm from 1898 until 1945, when a pilot practicing dive bombing cut the cable.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Interview: Agnes Rosenkrans, widow of Jeremiah H. Rosenkrans, present owner and occupant; July 15, July 24, and August 2, 1970.
2. Secondary sources:

Brown, Lenard E. "Historical Base Map: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area." National Park Service, Denver Service Center, March, 1973

Decker, Amelia Stickney. That Ancient Trail. 3rd ed. Trenton, 1962.

Souder, Norman M. "Historic Structures Report, Part I: Architectural Data Section on Historic Buildings, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area." National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, July, 1967.

Prepared by: Wesley Shank
William C. Badger
Project Historians
HABS
August, 1970

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This early nineteenth-century farmhouse originally had a Pennsylvania German plan.
2. Condition of fabric: good

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimension: This L-shaped, two-and-a-half-story house measures 46'-2" across its five-bay front by 58'-1" deep.
2. Foundations: Rubble stonework.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Clapboard over wood frame, painted white.
4. Structural system, framing: Heavy timber framing. The rafters in the original portion are half-lapped and pegged, while those in the newer section meet at a vertical joint. Propped purlins reduce rafter spans.
5. Porches: The full-length porches front and rear are wood-floored with wooden box columns and shed roofs. The rear porch is screened above a chair rail and enclosed below.
6. Chimneys: The central stone chimney is brick above the roofline. The original stone chimney which was inside the southwest wall no longer extends above the roof, but the structure remaining in the attic indicates that the off center chimney was angled to pierce the roof on center. The kitchen chimney on the exterior of the northwest wall is stuccoed brick.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The formal front doorway in the original portion has reeded pilaster ornament and a transom window with circular arc design. The present front doorway lacks the transom window.
- b. Windows: The windows in the original portion are generally two-over-two-light double hung sash. In the new portion, the second-floor windows have six-over-six-light and nine-over-six-light double-hung sash, while the first-floor windows are generally one-over-one lights.

8. Roof: The gable roof is covered with slate. The shed roofs over the porches and the hipped roof over the kitchen are covered with black composition shingles.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans

- a. Basement: In the original portion, the basement is under only the northeastern half and is one large room. Under the newer portion, the basement is essentially two rooms. The two portions do not connect.
- b. First floor: The first floor now has a central hall with one room on each side. Behind these are three more rooms. The kitchen in the north corner gives the building its L-shape.
- c. Second floor: There are six rooms around a central hall, with a seventh room in the north corner.

2. Stairways: The main stairway in the entry hall has a fine newell post and balustade in hard wood. Along the northeast wall is a winding stairway in an enclosure. A similar stairway in the north corner of the original portion leads from the second floor to the attic.

3. Flooring: The original painted wood floors vary in width from 6" to 16".

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered. The second-floor rooms in the original section have a chair rail. The second-floor rooms in the newer section have narrow horizontal molding with metal clothes hooks.

5. Openings: The first floor has six-panel doors with raised panels on one side and slight recessions without molding on the other. Doorways off the hall have decorative molding and corner blocks

with incised decoration. The second-floor doors in the original section are like those on the first floor but four-paneled. Two second-floor doorways have reeded trim. Several doors have painted graining. The remaining doors are paneled and board and batten, with several kinds of plain and molded doorways.

6. Decorative features and trim: The corner fireplace along the southwest wall has a large mantelpiece exhibiting an imaginative use of reeding and gouge carving
7. Hardware: The house has an assortment of cast hardware, including doorknobs, latches, and many hooks.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces southeast, away from the Delaware River.
2. Outbuildings: Hay and grain storage barn, wagon barn, chicken house, ice house, smokehouse, and wood-wash-slaughter house.

Prepared by: Wesley Shank
William Badger
Project Historians
HABS
July, 1970

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1969 under the direction of Roy C. Pledger (Texas A & M University), Project Supervisor, by student assistant architects Robert J. Dunay (Virginia Polytechnic Institute), William H. Edwards (University of Illinois), and Martin J. Rosenblum (University of Illinois) in the HABS field office at Hidden Lake, Pennsylvania, in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The historical data was written by Wesley Shank and William C. Badger, project historians, in 1970. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Alison K. Hoagland of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by Jack E. Boucher in 1969.